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THE REFORM RECORD

Two Years of Populist Administration Compared With Twenty Years Republican Rule.

SOLID FACTS FOR THE VOTERS OF NEBRASKA

Better Government—More School Money—State Thieves Prosecuted—More Fees Paid In—Premium on State Warrants, Etc.

Choose Whom You Will Have for Servants.

The chief issue in the pending Nebraska campaign is the issue of state government. It is the question whether the populist state administration has proven itself worthy of continued public confidence, whether it has given the people of the state better government than the republican party has given or is likely to give. This is the issue. What is the record? The record is one open to public inspection. It consists of facts and figures from the accounts of the different state departments. It is unassailable. It must and will be heard in every voting precinct of Nebraska between now and election day in November.

The reform party during the campaign of 1896 pledged themselves to reduce the cost of running the state institutions. That they have kept this pledge can be seen when the part of this edition devoted to the executive branch of the state government is read. The second pledge made by the reform forces in 1896 was, that in case they should have control of the state government, the board of educational lands and funds would invest the permanent school fund for the benefit of the children. The following table shows that the pledge has been kept: Sources from which derived:

SCHOOL APPORTIONMENT.

Date	State tax	Interest on investment	Lease and interest on school lands	From all other sources	Amount of apportionment
May, 1895	\$50,836.55	\$80,132.42	\$124,210.94	\$1,816.51	\$256,996.42
November, 1895	63,325.18	67,655.57	82,954.38	2,401.20	216,336.33
May, 1896	61,796.25	89,611.07	105,908.19	3,094.61	260,410.12
November, 1896	80,031.96	76,142.60	97,316.93	7,091.39	*231,955.30
May, 1897	77,829.92	83,707.80	197,885.17	2,803.14	362,226.03
November, 1897	79,513.63	91,179.99	218,127.09	1,045.28	*377,365.99
May, 1898	83,579.09	91,469.56	255,617.33	30.00	430,695.98
*Less amount in suspended banks, November, 1896, 24,624.58; November, 1897, \$12 500.					

CONDITION OF PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND.

Date.	Amount not invested.	Amount invested.
May, 31, 1895	\$565,248.14	\$2,949,841.35
November, 30 1895	599,207.27	2,937,141.35
May 31, 1896	595,523.81	3,029,211.35
November 30, 1896	447,037.63	3,184,751.35
May 31, 1897	*133,045.71	3,264,726.34
November 30, 1897	*181,175.59	3,284,582.22
May 31, 1898	*45,274.55	3,560,062.04
*Amount due permanent school fund from J. S. Bartley, May 31, 1897, \$270,133.45; November 30, 1897, \$270,133.45; May 31, 1898, \$268,495.14.		

The third pledge was that, if placed in control of the state government the reform party would give an economical administration. The following comparative statement shows that this pledge is being carried out to the letter. General fund warrants drawn to pay all expenses of the state government, not paid by special funds, from April 1, 1895 to April 1, 1896, \$1,536,697.06; from April 1, 1897, to April 1, 1898, \$1,034,052.98, making a saving to the tax payers of \$502,644.08 for the first year that the 1897 appropriations were available over the first year that the 1895 appropriations were available, or a saving of \$1,377.11 per day.

From December 1, 1896, to July 1, 1898, the state debt has been reduced \$700,542.99.

The total assessed valuation of all property in the state in 1896 was \$167,078,270.37. The state board assessed the railroad property at \$25,424,308. The total assessed valuation in 1897 decreased to \$165,193,736.42, or a decrease of 1 1/2 per cent, notwithstanding this the state board assessed the railroad property for 1898 at \$26,108,036.80, an increase of \$684,428.80, or a real increase in comparison with other property of \$978,134.33.

In every department of the state government great reforms have been instituted which have resulted in saving thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money, and the record here presented is one of which the reform party is justly proud.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The executive department of the state government has been under the control of the reform party for near-

ly four years, and while this is true it can hardly be claimed that the reform administration is to be held responsible for the first two years of this period. While the reform governor did all in his power to change the mode of doing the state's business that existed for years under republican rule, yet he was powerless to accomplish the reforms desired because of the fact that all of the other offices in the state house were filled by members of the old gang, and he was working under laws that had been passed by republican legislatures. But even with these great odds against him the record made by the governor was such an excellent one that he was elected for a second term by a largely increased majority. At the same time the entire republican gang was turned out and the governor was given good help in the work of reforming the affairs of the state.

From the time that this help was given the great work has never stopped and today the people of Nebraska are proud to say that the affairs of the state are conducted in a straightforward, honest manner.

It would be hard to enumerate all of the reforms instituted by the present executive, as they are many and varied, but probably the chief one is in the management of state institutions. As is well known, for years under republican rule, these institutions were managed with the greatest carelessness, if it can be said that they were managed at all. In all of them the funds appropriated for maintenance were recklessly expended, and in some instances these funds were used for campaign purposes.

When the reform party took control of these institutions through ap-

pointments made by the governor a change was at once made and for the past two years the affairs of these institutions have been managed on a strictly business basis. This has resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers and at the same time the state's charges have been given better care. Probably the most striking instance of this saving is shown in the state penitentiary and the Hastings asylum. In the former institution the change has been wonderful. In the year 1893 the average cost per capita for the maintenance of the prisoners was \$149.46, and in 1894 the cost was \$149.47. In 1895 the cost was reduced to \$129.46, but this year was partly under the administration of the reform warden, which accounts for the reduction. The following year the cost was reduced to \$103.19, and in 1897 it cost the state an average of \$72.51 to maintain the prisoners. But in these two years a great many improvements were made in the penitentiary buildings and grounds and the costs were paid entirely out of the convicts' earnings, the maintenance of the convicts being paid altogether out of the appropriation.

But the best part of this showing has been made in the first six months

of the present year, the cost to the state of running the institution being only 86 cents per capita, and the entire cost of running the institution for the year will not exceed \$3,000.

The record made at the Hastings asylum is equally as good, and the taxpayers have reason to rejoice thereat as the cost of maintenance has been greatly reduced. For the purpose of making a comparison we will take the year 1893 under republican rule and compare it with 1897 under reform. In the former year there was an average of 368 patients at the institution and the cost of keeping them was \$70,865.06, or an average of \$193.06 per inmate. In 1897, under reform methods, the cost of running the asylum had been reduced to \$62,060.46. The number of patients for this year was 540, making the average cost per patient \$103.34.

Like records have been made in all of the state institutions, and they have been made because the reform governor insisted that they should be run on an honest business basis and not as places for finding soft berths for politicians.

These are not the only reforms that the populist governor has made, but if they were they would be sufficient to endear him and his party in the hearts of the people

Cost of the four items in 1897 .. \$4203.01
Cost of the four items in 1895 .. 12247.90
Cost of the four items in 1889 .. 18610.00
Saving in 1897 over that of 1895 .. \$8044.89
Saving in 1897 over that of 1889 .. 14306.99

In the above statement we have taken but four items from a large number. We used those simply as an illustration, as it would take too much space to enumerate each separate item, but the same comparative saving is shown throughout the list amounting to tens of thousands of dollars.

It is no wonder that the old State Journal howls about the "pops" being a disgrace to the state and longs for the g. o. p. to return to the state house, in order that they may again have the privilege of "standing up for Nebraska" by stealing her people blind by securing fat contracts for state printing as in the days of yore. But the voters of Nebraska have too much self respect to again vote a party into power whose record is one continual line of stealing, the amounts being stolen only being limited by the opportunity of the individual, and they will continue to "stand up for Nebraska" by re-electing the present state officials who have brought state warrants up from 95 to 1 1/2 cents premium, and placed Nebraska's credit at the head of the column and made her the most prosperous state in the union.

WORK INCREASED

Labor Bureau Collecting Statistics of Great Value

The work in this department was considerably increased by the last legislature. A free employment agency was added and an amendment was passed requiring assessors to return a large amount of labor statistics, which must be finally compiled and put in shape by the state bureau.

Notwithstanding this increase in work, no additional force was provided to perform the extra duties, while the appropriation for the expenses of the office was actually cut down to \$650 for the two years, whereas before it never had been less than \$1,000 and sometimes had been as high as \$3,000.

There are only two officials in the bureau, the deputy commissioner, who began his term of office May 1, 1897, and the clerk, who began his term on February 15, 1895. Owing to the lateness of the present commissioner's assuming office some of the work was necessarily delayed.

Regardless of all these drawbacks, however, the work of the bureau has taken a wider range and has been much more thoroughly prosecuted than ever before in the history of the state. Statistics have been gathered, and are being gathered, relating to

GREAT REFORMS MADE

Present Treasurer Has Placed the State on a Sound Financial Basis

DEBT IS GREATLY REDUCED

Thousands of Dollars Saved in Interest—Public School System is Greatly Benefited

Reforms in the Treasury

When the republicans retired from the management of state affairs the treasurer left as an inheritance for his successor a shortage of \$555,790.66. With this shortage to face the populist treasurer took charge of the office and in a few months made a radical change in the financial affairs of the state.

Republican treasurers had always kept large sums of money in their own hands, out of which they made loans to banks and private individuals, always pocketing the proceeds. Instead of keeping vast sums of money on hand, the reform treasurer pays it out in redemption of warrants and bonds as fast as it comes in. This has been his policy from the beginning of his term and it has resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars to the state in interest.

This reduction in warrants, up to the present time, amounts to \$410,542.99. The bonded indebtedness of the state has been reduced \$290,000.00, making a total reduction of \$700,542.99 in the indebtedness of the state in eighteen months of reform administration. Every fund is now cash except the general fund, and the time these warrants run has been reduced from twenty-three to eighteen months. This five months reduction in the payment of general fund warrants alone saves to the state the neat sum of \$32,250 in interest. Add to this the 5 per cent on the reduction of the debt, \$35,000, and we have \$67,250 in interest saved to the state.

Another item in the management of the state treasury that the people of the state are vitally interested in is the semi-annual apportionment for the support of the common schools, and it is gratifying to know that under the present administration these apportionments have been the largest ever made in the history of the state. The average apportionment for the years 1890 to 1896 under republican rule was \$660,205.28. In 1897, the first year of reform, the apportionment was \$739,591.93, and for the first six months of 1898 it amounted to \$430,695.98. This gratifying increase, while not due entirely to the state treasurer, can be accounted for in a large measure by the careful and prudent manner in which he has handled the state's funds.

The great saving to the taxpayers in the change of administration cannot be fully set forth in a newspaper article, but enough has been given to show that the pledges of the reform party have been carried out, and that the reforms inaugurated have resulted in saving thousands of dollars of the people's money.

RELIEF PROMPTLY GRANTED

Although Hindered by Decisions Board of Transportation Has Accomplished Much

The state board of transportation under the present administration has been handicapped by court decisions and injunctions. On the matter of general freight rates the decisions of the United States supreme court in the maximum rate case has almost swept away every vestige of hope in reference to a reduction of rates. As the court holds that in arriving at a reasonable freight rate interstate business cannot be considered, and as the business done wholly within the state is a very small percentage of the business done by some of the systems represented in Nebraska, it will be almost impossible to make a reduction in accord with the decision of the court.

The telephone and express rates have been tied up in the local courts and have not yet reached a final termination.

In the matters that have been presented to the board in which they have had jurisdiction relief has been promptly granted, and in every case with one exception, a decision rendered favorable to the people. A vast amount of relief has been obtained for individuals and localities for which the board gets no credit except from such individuals and localities.

In the matter of the change in freight rates from car load rates to cents per hundred pounds and the order made restoring the old rate, a prominent shipper said recently to a member of the board that he had offered to put \$50 in a fund to fight the change in the courts, but that the board had accomplished all that the shippers would have asked, and that they had already saved the people of the state enough to pay the salaries of the board of transportation for the next fifty years, and that he could not understand why the state board of transportation was not given due credit with this saving and that the stock men of the state, the real shippers, recognized what had been done.

SELF-SUPPORTING BASIS

Reforms Made in Secretary of State's Office By Present Administration

TURNING MONEY INTO TREASURY

Thousands of Dollars Saved on the State Printing Contracts By the "Pops"

Interesting Reading Under the reform administration a great change has been made in the management of the secretary of

state's office, and the people are richer by thousands of dollars because of the change. Under every republican administration since the organization of the state a deficiency had been created by this office which had to be raised by taxation. When the republicans were turned out of the state house the present secretary inaugurated reforms that have not only placed the office upon a self-supporting basis, but have enabled him to turn into the state treasury several thousand dollars in excess fees. It was at the reform secretary's earnest solicitation that the legislature of 1897 passed the new corporation law, under which this result has been accomplished. To more clearly show the difference between republican and reform administrations, the following table will make interesting reading:

Years	Appropriation	Expended	Fees accounted for	Deficiency to be raised by taxation	Surplus turned in to state treasury
1877-78	\$12600	\$11901.82	\$480.00	\$11421.82	
1879-80	10550	10548.80	630.15	9918.65	
1881-82	11500	11460.00	1025.75	10434.25	
1883-84	11760	11760.00	1455.05	10304.95	
1885-86	14575	14574.97	2735.45	11839.52	
1887-88	17450	17382.47	3691.71	13690.76	
1889-90	17250	17250.00	3383.16	13866.84	
1891-92	16850	16840.66	2809.25	14031.41	
1893-94	16650	16598.98	2434.82	14073.16	
1895-96	18600	18365.52	1677.13	16682.40	
1897-98	18300		*20944.60		\$7000

*Up to June 30, 1898. The probability is that it will be increased at least \$5,000 before the end of the year.

Analyzing the above it will be seen that under republican laws, administered by republican officials, the people of the state during the past twenty years had to be taxed the enormous sum of \$126,269.76 to defray the running expenses of the office of secretary of state, while under the law passed by the reform legislature and administered by a reform secretary of state the office will turn into the state treasury an actual surplus of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The table also shows that under the populist state administration more fees were accounted for during the eighteen months, beginning January, 1897, than was turned in under republican administrations during the entire twenty years from 1877 to 1897. Surely the present officials are "standing up for Nebraska" and its

already overburdened taxpayers. Of the appropriations made for the running expenses of the office, at least \$1,000 will revert back into the treasury as not being needed. You will search in vain for a parallel to the splendid showing made under the efficient administration of the present secretary.

STATE PRINTING.

For years under republican rule the treasury of the state of Nebraska had been systematically robbed on the state printing contracts. The reform party promised to make a change that would save the taxpayers thousands of dollars, if they were given the opportunity. The voters gave them the opportunity sought and how well they have kept their promise is shown in the following figures:

SESSION LAWS.

Year	No. Volumes printed	No. pages each vol.	Cost per page	Total cost	Cost per book	Cost in excess over 1897
1897	5000	532	\$2.95	\$1509.40	\$0.31	
1895	5000	540	3.45	2943.00	.59	
1889	5000	722	9.00	6390.00	1.08	\$4820.60

HOUSE JOURNAL.

Year	Pages	Cost	Total cost	Cost per page
1897	2000	\$1.00	\$1338.00	\$0.66
1895	1000	2.10	2010.00	3.91
1889	2000	3.00	6954.00	3.45

SENATE JOURNAL.

Year	Pages	Cost	Total cost	Cost per page
1897	2000	\$1.00	\$902.00	\$0.45
1895	2000	2.35	4779.00	2.38
1889	2000	3.00	4794.00	2.40

SCHOOL LAWS.

Year	Pages	Cost	Total cost	Cost per page
1897	1000	\$2.28	\$338.61	\$0.35
1895	1000	3.75	615.00	0.60
1889	1000	3.00	372.00	0.37